

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

WILLIAM WALKER

COMPLAINANT

v.

JACKSON PURCHASE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CORPORATION

DEFENDANT

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) CASE NO. 95-117
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O R D E R

The Commission, on its own motion, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. The Commission Staff's Meter Complaint Investigation Report, attached hereto as Appendix A and incorporated herein, shall be made a part of the record in this case.

2. Any request for a hearing shall be filed in writing with the Commission no later October 16, 1995.

3. In the event that no hearing is requested, this case shall stand submitted for decision by the Commission on the basis of the existing record.

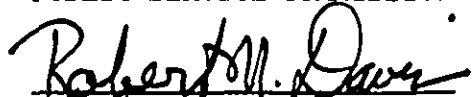
4. In the event that a hearing is requested, the complainant and defendant shall appear at a hearing at 1:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time on October 26, 1995 in Hearing Room 2 of the Commission's offices at 677 Comanche Trail, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 2nd day of October, 1995.

ATTEST:


Executive Director

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


For the Commission

APPENDIX A

AN APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
IN CASE NO. 95-117 DATED 10/2/95

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Public Service Commission

Meter Complaint Investigation Report

William Walker vs. Jackson Purchase Electric Coop.
PSC Case No. 95-117/Co. Account No. 339698074
PSC Complaint No. 950049501

Brief

On August 23, 1995, various tests were performed at the meter test facilities of Jackson Purchase Electric Cooperative Corporation in Paducah, Kentucky. This was done in response to a written formal complaint received at the PSC's Frankfort location from William Walker on May 04, 1995 (refer to Attachment "A" for a copy of this request) wherein he states "...Bad meter yes...I do not owe \$600.00 on this meter...we were also told that we could be present when the meter was checked -- of course we were not notified...there was a problem with the meter in 1993. Why was I not informed then...."

On May 22, 1995 the PSC issued an "Order to Satisfy or Answer". This was followed by a telephone conference call involving various utility representatives, PSC personnel, the complainant, etc. (refer to Attachments "B, B-1, B-2" for a summary).

A "Request Test" of this questionable meter had been performed by Jackson Purchase on 3-7-95. It was found to be

100.01% accurate at that time (refer to Attachments "C, C-1" for a copy).

Formal official "Complaint Tests" were done in accordance with the directives outlined in the Public Service Commission's Regulations 807 KAR 5:006, Section 18 (2) and 807 KAR 5:041, Section 17. Refer to Attachments "D" through "G" regarding some of the more detailed billing histories outlining exact sequences of events which appear meaningful for Account No. 339698074.

Investigation

The major focus of these tests was to verify the company's most recent test results for this meter. With this thought in mind, utility test records were sought and obtained for this meter. Refer to these results as follows:

Attachment "H": 3-89.... 100.0% (Questionable meter results "as left", before installation)

Attachment "I": 3-95.... 100.01% (Detailed Request Test "as found" results immediately upon removal)

The past test record for the meter that is presently in place at the Walker location was likewise sought and obtained and can be seen as Attachment "J":

Attachment "J": 2-95.... 99.99% (Periodic "as left" test results)

PSC Complaint Test

The questionable meter involved is a Sangamo Electric Company, Type J3S, Form 2S, 240 volt, 30 ampere meter with a Kh of

12, TA 30, 200 class, 3 wire, Rr 8 1/3, 5 dial cyclometer type register, 60 Hz, serial no. 25490750, account no. 339698074, single stator with an observed index reading of 16030 KWH at the start of testing.

No seal was found on the meter. When questioned, the response was "...no meter seal was found on this meter at the time of the request test." Utility records make no mention of this missing seal. This meter had been kept in safe storage at the utility since the earlier Request Test.

Jackson Purchase's meter test bench was used for all tests. A utility records' check showed that the watthour reference standard located within this bench had been compared to Jackson's Master Watthour Standard monthly as is required. Appropriate standard corrections were applied to the tests where required.

Prior to running any tests of this questionable meter, the standard built into Jackson Purchase's RFL 5800 test bench had it's accuracy verified first by comparing a PSC-owned standard of known accuracy (SC10, number 6423) to it at various test points where it was to be used and next a duplicate set of comparison tests were run comparing Jackson's master standard to this same board. All tests were quite accurate showing the board to be within $\pm .1\%$ (worst case) and typically within $\pm .05\%$ at all loads run.

The PSC's standard had been last tested at the Commission's Meter Standards Laboratory 8-4-95 (refer to Attachment "K" for these accuracy findings).

Present for these tests were the following individuals:

Denis Hildenbrand-- PSC Utility Investigator (E0571)
Bob Ueltschi-- PSC Utility Investigator
Jamie Hardin-- JPECC, PSC-certified Meter Tester
(E0593)
Michael Downing-- JPECC, PSC-certified Meter Tester
(E0664)
Marilyn Wright-- JPECC Customer Accounting
Supervisor
Donald R. Schaefer-- JPECC Manager of Engineering
(present part of this time)

Mr. William Walker was afforded the opportunity to witness these tests, but chose not to be present.

"As found" results of the questionable meter were as follows (refer to Attachment "L"):

	<u>Full Load</u>	<u>Light Load</u>	<u>.5% Lagging P.F.</u>
<u>Average of</u> <u>four tries--</u>	100.07	99.87	100.03

Overall average accuracy of FL and LL= 99.97%

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Once it was determined that repeatable, acceptable test results were obtained and that Jackson Purchase's earlier results were confirmed, additional checks were run on this meter to see that all was proper. The following observations were made as the test process continued:

- The register ratio (Rr) of 8 1/3 was verified to be correct.
- No "creep" was detected with only voltage applied

- No burn marks were observed from lightning, etc.
- No excessive wear was observed on the blades.
- Meter "mesh" gearing was found normal.
- No bent disk was detected.
- No trouble was observed with the register's sequencing of numbers.
- No trouble was found with the meter's overall operations.
- No internal breakdowns were detected.
- An ending reading of 16033 KWH was noted when testing was complete.

PSC load seal "No. 7/46, PSC/KY" was placed on this meter when finished.

This questionable meter is presently being held at the Commission's Meter Standards Laboratory and will remain there until the matter is resolved.

Additional Observations

At the time of this test process, it was learned that Jackson Purchase had apparently taken PSC-required annual readings of their system, but it appeared they did not use these readings to bill Mr. Walker. Instead, they elected to use the readings sent in by Mr. Walker even though these were known to be wrong. It is not clear why this was done.

Conclusion

The questionable accuracy of the Walker meter fell within PSC accuracy guidelines of $\pm 2\%$. No trouble was found with this meter's operations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis Hildenbrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denis" being more prominent than the last name "Hildenbrand".

Denis Hildenbrand
Chief Utility Investigator
Meter Standards Laboratory

DPH:jep
attachments